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# Democrats Want Official to Be Reinstated Over Report on Profiling

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 - Democrats in Congress called Thursday for the reinstatement of a Justice Department official who objected to his supervisors' effort to play down the findings of a federal report on racial profiling.

The White House is replacing the official, Lawrence A. Greenfeld, who is director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, months after he complained that senior political officials at the department were seeking to distort publicly the findings of the statistical report by his agency.

The report found that while drivers from different racial or ethnic groups were stopped by the police at essentially the same rate, blacks and Hispanics were much more likely to have their vehicles searched or be subjected to the use of force once they were stopped.

Mr. Greenfeld objected to efforts by his superiors at the Justice Department to delete references to the racial or ethnic disparities from a planned news release on the study. After he refused to delete the material, the study was posted online in April, unchanged, but no public announcement was made. The White House has now told Mr. Greenfeld he is being replaced.

In a letter sent Thursday to Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, six Democrats in Congress called for Mr. Greenfeld's immediate reinstatement. Citing the importance of the racial profiling issue, the letter said that the Justice Department must "be forthcoming about these troubling statistics" from the April report and that it was "essential that all data and statistical conclusions be free from political manipulation."

Senator Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey, one of the Democrats signing the letter, added in a statement that "no government official should be removed from his or her position because they dare to tell the truth." Racial profiling has been a particularly divisive issue in New Jersey, where a pattern of racial profiling by state troopers in the late 1990's led to a state ban and a federal order to end the practice.

Justice Department officials said they had not yet seen the Democrats' letter and could not comment

publicly on an internal personnel matter.

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